

## GLOBAL AIDS

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, yesterday, I was pleased to join Senators DURBIN, DEWINE and others in sponsoring an amendment to increase funding to fight AIDS around the world. It is imperative that we do all we can to stem the spread of this deadly and devastating disease.

The latest statistics tell a grim story: The AIDS epidemic claimed more than 3 million lives in 2002, and an estimated 5 million people acquired the human immunodeficiency virus, HIV, in 2002, bringing to 42 million the number of people globally living with the virus. While we are most familiar with the presence of AIDS in Africa, especially sub-Saharan Africa, AIDS is rapidly expanding throughout Eastern Europe, Asia and the Caribbean. By 2010, it is estimated that approximately 40 million children worldwide will have lost one or both of their parents to HIV/AIDS.

The amendment adopted by the Senate would increase our commitment to the United States Agency for International Development's Child Survival and Health Programs Fund by \$180 million. Of that amount, \$100 million is for a U.S. contribution to the United Nations Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and \$25 million is available for transfer to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control to help in the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS. This amount will bring the total U.S. contribution for Fiscal Year 2003 in the fight against global AIDS to \$1.525 billion. While this is a far cry from the \$2.5 billion sought by the international health community to meet the needs of international organizations working to eradicate AIDS and individual countries grappling with soaring HIV infection rates, it is the least we can do.

The current Administration has asserted on a number of occasions that the U.S. government is prepared to play a leadership role in the fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS. Yet earlier this year, the President chose not to spend \$200 million which was included in the Fiscal Year 2002 emergency supplemental for the U.N. Global Fund to Fight AIDS. It is no surprise that the international community questions our commitment to this fight. Leadership requires more than rhetoric. It requires that we commit our fair share of resources so we can fully participate in a larger, more comprehensive international effort to regain control of this crisis.

I am pleased my colleagues supported this amendment.

## AMERICA'S PLACE IN THE WORLD

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, yesterday I gave an address to the World Affairs Council in Los Angeles, CA on America's role in the world. I ask unanimous consent to print my address in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Today America faces four great international challenges: the war on terror, the situation in Iraq, the Israel-Palestinian dispute, and the crisis in North Korea. These four present challenges to our Nation greater than any our Nation has faced in decades.

With respect to the ongoing war on terror, which centers around Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida, I can report substantial progress. The United States with its allies and the Northern Alliance succeeded in dispersing the Taliban government and putting al-Qaida operatives on the run. The government of Hamid Karzai is reasserting control over Afghanistan, although the going is difficult.

The security situation in Afghanistan is improving. We have 7,500 troops on the ground, and our allies, 5,000; they are providing security until the new government of Afghanistan is able to train military and police.

And, as a final action in the last Congress, a new Department of Homeland Security has been created to better coordinate efforts to safeguard the American people from terrorist attacks.

On the negative side, however, Osama bin Laden and many of his senior lieutenants are most probably still alive, along with hundreds, and possibly thousands of followers. They remain extremely dangerous.

And while Mullah Omar and the Taliban have been removed from power, they lurk in the remote areas of Afghanistan along the border with Pakistan and wait for a sign of weakness so they can return.

Bottom line, if we are to be successful in the war on terror, it is critical that Osama bin Laden, Mullah Omar, and other senior Taliban and al-Qaida operatives be brought to justice.

So, we must stay the course in Afghanistan. And wherever the war on terror takes us, we must not allow ourselves to get distracted or take our eye off the ball.

We must ensure that the Afghan economy and infrastructure are rebuilt. We must protect this fledgling democracy so it can survive and the Afghan people can flourish.

Just last week, Paul Wolfowitz, Deputy Secretary of Defense, said from Kabul that "stability and security" must be the goal. I agree.

Internationally, we must relentlessly pursue those who would use terror to destroy us. That must be our mission and it must be sustained until the job is finished.

With regard to Iraq, let me begin by saying categorically that no information has been presented to the Senate to date to connect Iraq to 9-11 or to any al-Qaida terrorist attack.

Nevertheless, Vice President Cheney laid the groundwork for a preemptive U.S. military strike against Iraq in a major speech last August 26, stating that Iraq either is, or would imminently be, a nuclear power.

But he provided no evidence to back up this accusation either publicly to the American people or privately, on a classified basis, to the Senate. He was, I believe, laying the ground work for a unilateral and preemptive attack on Iraq.

Then, however, in a welcome shift of position, the President went to the United Nations on September 12 and strongly urged the Security Council to compel Iraqi compliance with the 16 resolutions Iraq has defied over the past 11 years.

The President has repeatedly stated that the United States will lead "a coalition of the willing" to compel Iraq's compliance. In September, it appeared that the President had turned away from a unilateral course of

action to a multilateral one. That was good and welcome news.

On October 10, I voted for a Senate Resolution that would have required the President to return to the Security Council for a vote before launching a military strike against Iraq. That resolution was defeated.

Subsequently, and based on the President's support for acting in concert with the UN Security Council, I joined 76 of my colleagues and voted to support a resolution authorizing the President to use of force to compel compliance if necessary.

Since November 24, the UN inspection teams have inspected Iraqi facilities that produce chemicals and pharmaceuticals, Saddam's palace compounds, health care centers, water plants, and numerous other facilities where old records, prior inspections, or intelligence indicate chemical, biological or nuclear weapons or missiles might either be made or secreted.

The International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, is also in the process of doubling the number of inspectors.

On December 7, Iraq gave the United Nations a 12,000-page account of its chemical, biological, nuclear, and missile programs.

And on December 28, Iraq provided the UN inspectors with the list of Iraqis participating in its weapons programs.

January 27 is a key date. On that day, the findings of the IAEA inspectors will be detailed, and any discrepancies between what they have found thus far and Iraq's earlier declaration should be revealed.

Inspections to date have produced no evidence sufficient to clearly establish continuing culpability in the production of weapons of mass destruction.

However, Iraq is not yet cooperating fully with the UN inspectors as the Security Council demanded. Saddam may well be up to his old tricks, moving weapons or other incriminating evidence from place to place. The history is a sordid one.

If there is clear evidence that Iraq is continuing an illegal program to produce weapons of mass destruction; or has submitted inaccurate or false information regarding its nuclear and biological programs; or has secret programs, facilities, or stockpiles; then the administration should make it public.

And, if there is hard evidence of weapons of mass destruction, then the Security Council must take immediate action to compel compliance, including using force, if necessary. And I would support such action.

But the massive increase of U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf appears to be an indication that regardless of the findings of the UN inspectors the President may well intend to use military force to bring about regime change in Iraq. This is deeply disturbing.

I strongly believe that the arms inspectors must be allowed to complete their task, to report back to the UN Security Council, and the Security Council must then consider action.

In the meantime, Iraq is effectively contained and prevented from developing weapons of mass destruction. It is not an imminent threat to its neighbors or the United States. And there is no need for precipitous action under these circumstances.

A preemptive unilateral attack against a Muslim nation may well create a divide between the U.S. and the Muslim world so deep and wide that it will bring with it negative consequences for decades.

There are efforts being made behind the scenes by Arab nations to achieve a peaceful regime change. These efforts should be given the opportunity to succeed. What is the rush to bring the tragedy of war?

If Iraq can be successfully contained and disarmed and war can be avoided, if the deaths of innocent people can be prevented,